

To: FCC Chairman Michael Powell and FCC Commissioners

I urge you and the other Commissioners not to end critical safeguards designed to help ensure diversity of media ownership. Under the FCC plans, there would likely be fewer owners of networks, stations, and newspapers nationwide. All of this is bad for competition, the First Amendment and democracy. I urge you also to ensure there are more public hearings to discuss how such proposals would affect my community and the nation. I am concerned and dismayed that such a monumental FCC action has received so very little media coverage and public discussion. A recent study shows that only 28% of Americans even know about the pending deregulation, and the giant firms that rule our news media have little or no incentive to cover this story. Could this mean that our national media is already serving the interests of media ownership rather than the public interest that the First Amendment describes? The FCC needs to be a good steward of America's airwaves, and act in accordance with the growing chorus of voices that say further deregulation would threaten our democracy and the freedoms that helped to form our great nation. Thank you for considering my comments.

Sincerely,  
Kirk M. Berryman